

LOUISE M. RICE.

JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PICKLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10088.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10088) to increase the pension of Louise A. Rice, having carefully considered the facts in the case, respectfully report:

The beneficiary named in the bill is the widow of Brig. Gen. Samuel A. Rice, who was seriously wounded at the battle of Jenkins Ferry, Ark., while in command of his brigade, and died a short time thereafter, leaving claimant with five very small children. The military record of the soldier is as follows:

Case of Samuel A. Rice, late brigadier-general, United States Volunteers.

As shown by the records, Samuel A. Rice was mustered into service as colonel, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry Volunteers, October 1, 1862, to serve three years, and is reported present on the muster rolls of the field and staff of that regiment to April 30, 1863. He was assigned to the command of the Second Brigade, Thirteenth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, June 13, 1863, and to the command of the post of Helena, Ark., July 14, 1863. He was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers August 4, 1863, to rank from the same date; accepted the appointment August 17, 1863, and was on duty as such as follows: August 5, 1863, in command of the Thirteenth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps; August 6 to October 8, 1863, in command of the Third Division, Arkansas Expedition, also known as Army of Arkansas; October 8 to November 16, 1863, and from February 1 to March 23, 1864, in command of the Second Brigade, Third Division, Army and Department of Arkansas (Seventh Army Corps); March 23 to April 30, 1864, in command of the First Brigade, Third Division, Department of Arkansas (Seventh Army Corps). From November 16, 1863, to February 1, 1864, he is reported on leave of absence. He was wounded at the battle of Jenkins Ferry, Ark., April 30, 1864; was granted leave of absence May 7, 1864, on surgeon's certificate of disability, and died at Oskaloosa, Iowa, from the effects of his wound, July, 6, 1864.

The records further show that after his death General Rice was recommended for the brevet rank of major-general of United States Volunteers, but no record has been found showing that a brevet commission as of that grade was ever issued in his case.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. AINSWORTH,

Colonel, United States Army, Chief Record and Pension Office.

RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,

January 25, 1897.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

Brigadier-General Rice seems to have been the only general officer from the State of Iowa whose death was directly caused by wounds received in battle during the late war. His widow is now 67 years of age, in very poor health, and has no income except a pension of \$30 per month, which she is receiving under the general law.

Your committee believe this claim is unusually meritorious; it is strictly in the line of precedent, and we therefore respectfully recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and add in lieu thereof:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place upon the pension roll, subject otherwise to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Louise M. Rice, widow of Samuel A. Rice, late brigadier-general of volunteers, and pay her a pension of fifty dollars per month in lieu of the pension she is now receiving.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Louise M. Rice."

